

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 03397 081905Z
ACTION DHA-05

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FOR D/HA DERIAN FROM HANSON AND AUTHUR

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, HA
SUBJECT: HAITIANS IN GUANTANAMO: FOLLOWUP IN HAITI

1. DURING LAST TWO DAYS WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF POVS, AND NUMEROUS HAITIANS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR. FOLLOWUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 6 WITH IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR GUERRIER WAS MARKED BY REITERATION OF ASSURANCES ALREADY RECIEVED, INCLUDING PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE RETURNEES. GUERRIER TOLD US THAT TWO OF THE RETURNEES NAD COME TO HIM FOR ASSISTANCE IN FINDING WORK AND THAT HE HAD REFERRED THEM TO MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS SALVANT WITH ENDORSEMENT OF THEIR REQUEST. AS OF YESTERDAY THESE TWO RETURNEES HAD NOT YET CALLED ON SALVANT.

2. ON TUESDAY WE MET WITH CARE DIRECTOR SCHIEFFELE TOGETHER WITH ACTING USAID DIRECTOR MASSEY. WEDNESDAY WE HAD VALUABLE DISCUSSION OF RURAL ORGANIZATION WITH CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) DIRECTOR SMITH AND HIS DEPUTY CUTRELL. AFTER VISITING EMBASSY NON-IMMIGRANT VISA SECTION AND USIS OFFICES, WE MET WITH PRESIDENT OF HAITIAN RED CROSS DR. LAROCHE AT NOON. LAROCHE AND HIS DEPUTIES, DR. JOSEPH AND MR. BURY, DESCRIBED ACTIONS TAKEN TO INSURE APPROPRIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR RETURNEE
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MARIE-JOSETTE PIERRE-LOUIS (PAP 3384). LAROCHE ALSO SAID 10 RETURNEES HAD COME TO RED CROSS AND RECEIVED SHOES AND CLOTHING.

3. WEDNESDAY EVENING WE MET WITH SEVERAL LEADING HAITIANS, INCLUDING ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

GATHERED AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE TO OBSERVE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES SIGNING CEREMONY. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE REPATRIATION OF THE HAITIANS FROM GUANTANAMO AND THE US WAS COMPLIMENTED FOR THE CARE AND THOROUGHNESS OF ITS HANDLING OF THE CASE. FOLLOWING THE RECEPTION WE HAD DETAILED CONVERSATION ABOUT TAX PRACTICES, LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, AND THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN HAITI WITH SALES MANAGER OF PRIVATE FIRM WHO RETURNED HERE 2 1/2 YEARS AGO AFTER RECEIVING TECHNICAL EDUCATION ABROAD. HE SAID HE WAS ONE OF MANY WHO HAD RETURNED BECAUSE OF IMPROVED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS. ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT SOME YOUNG, WELL-EDUCATED PEOPLE ARE STILL LEAVING THE COUNTRY, HE BELIEVES THE EXODUS OF THE 1960S HAS BEEN REVERSED.

4. THIS MORNING (SEPTEMBER 8) WE LEAVE FOR THE LES CAYES AND ST. JEAN DU SUD AREAS, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF TIGHE, TO VISIT HOME AREAS OF MANY OF THE 97 RETURNEES. WE ARE TO MEET, AMONG OTHERS, WITH LOCAL CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE (CRS) REPRESENTATIVES AND WITH THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HAITIAN RED CROSS (WHICH HAS REQUESTED A LIST OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE RETURNEES SO IT CAN FOLLOW UP IN MONTHS TO COME). WE RETURN FROM LES CAYES SATURDAY MORNING AND WILL HAVE BRIEF MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR JONES AND FINAL CONSULTATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS TO LEAVE PORT AU PRINCE SUNDAY MORNING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASHINGTON.
MEADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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